

REMARKS

The outstanding non-final Office Action mailed October 7, 2004 has been carefully considered. In response thereto, please enter the following amendments in which claim 20 is amended and in which the disclosure is amended.

Claims 1 and 3-22 are now pending in the present application. Claim 20 stands objected to for depending from cancelled claim 2, and claims 1 and 3-22 stand rejected under non-statutory double patenting. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Amendment to the Specification

Applicants have amended the specification to correct a typographical error. Specifically, at page 10, line 25 the reference numeral "20" was deleted and the reference numeral -12- was inserted therefor.

Amendment to Claim 20

Applicants have amended claim 20 to depend from claim 1.

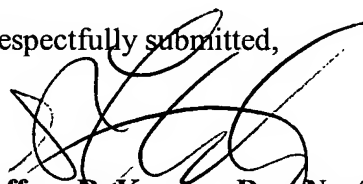
Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 1 and 3 – 22 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. Specifically, claims 1 and 3 – 22 have been rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,697,453 B1. In response to the double patenting rejection, Applicant submits a terminal disclaimer pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.321(c). Applicant has submitted the terminal disclaimer solely to advance prosecution, without conceding that the double patenting rejection is properly based. In filing the terminal disclaimer, Applicant rely upon the ruling of the Federal Circuit that the filing of such a terminal disclaimer does not act as an admission, acquiescence, or estoppel on the merits of the obviousness issue.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 1 and 3-22 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JK', written over a horizontal line.

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